

Southern Arizona Water Users Association



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SAWUA is a voluntary nonprofit association organized in 1999 to discuss, analyze, and recommend ways to preserve and enhance the quality and quantity of Southern Arizona's water resources.

The Association is comprised of governmental bodies, municipal water providers, agricultural water users, and others interested in working cooperatively to achieve the objective of the Association.

The Association believes it should exercise leadership and initiative to determine and encourage the most effective management of the region's sustainable supplies of quality water.

The Association is not, nor is it intended to be, a substitute for local government. It is, however, an organization through which its individual members can work on water resource issues and coordinate their efforts.

SAWUA is providing this quarterly publication as a service to parties that have interest in issues and legislation that impact water policy decisions in Southern Arizona.

SAWUA Supports Extension of CAP Property Tax Authority

Since Statehood, Arizona has recognized the critical economic importance of copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate. While each of these five sectors are unique, they share the common reliance on the availability of water supplies to flourish. In fact, the Arizona Department of Water Resources recently observed that "all economic activity, including mining, irrigated agriculture and growth of cities occurs only where dependable water supplies are available."

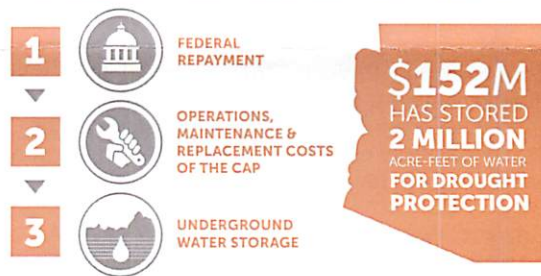
As policymakers face the challenge of growing and diversifying the Arizona economy, sustainable water supplies will be a critical component to our economic recovery and expansion. Policymakers cannot afford to jeopardize the long-term future of Arizona by overlooking the importance that water plays in sustaining economic growth and fiscal sustainability.

Arizona has been blessed with a rich tradition of statesmen and policy advocates that met the previous challenges of creating the Central Arizona Project, enacting the Groundwater Management Code of 1980, and the Assured Water Supply Rules, among other notable water policy initiatives. The mantle has now been passed to us to share a vision to manage our water for the next 30 years and beyond.

With the commencement of the 2015 legislative session, the Arizona Legislature will be asked to reauthorize the four-cent Central Arizona Water Project (CAP) ad valorem tax levied by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District from 2017 to 2045. The tax is collected in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal Counties to fund the construction of water recharge facilities, OM&R expenses of the CAP and federal repayment, and support recharge efforts by the Arizona Water Banking Authority.

HOW THE 4¢ TAX IS USED

Arizona law specifies a 1-2-3 tiered system for expenditures.



Management of limited water resources remains a critical statewide concern. While current funding is inadequate to meet all water resource-related projects, the failure to renew the CAP four-cent property tax will exacerbate the ongoing water management challenges facing our state.

Recognizing that developing sustainable water supplies is a critical component to Arizona's current and future economic expansion, SAWUA, like other water policy advocacy organizations, supports the extension of the CAP four-cent property tax. The reauthorization of the assessment represents the political recognition of Arizona's long-term commitment to implementing policies and programs necessary to manage limited water resources.

Second Forum on Water Issues Impacting Southern Arizona


Please join the Southern Arizona Water Users Association for a discussion on *Water Issues and Southern Arizona* on Friday, March 6th. This forum will focus on current water issues and their impact on Southern Arizona today and in the future. The forum is intended to encourage discussion among elected officials and policymakers on the continued development of regional solutions.

Save the Date

Please join us
Friday, March 6th for a discussion on

Water Issues & Southern Arizona

Presented by:



Southern Arizona Water Users Association

Friday, March 6, 2015
8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
7:30 a.m. Breakfast & Registration

Hotel Tucson City Center
475 North Granada Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701

Please RSVP by February 27, 2015

To: Yesenia Pinales
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Regional Pilot Project to Determine Inter-AMA Firming Feasibility

The City of Phoenix recently approved agreements with the City of Tucson and Metro Water District for a small pilot project to allow Phoenix to store a small portion of its Central Arizona Project (CAP) water at their respective recharge facilities. In exchange, during a shortage year, Phoenix would directly receive an equivalent amount of CAP water from Tucson and Metro Water. This pilot project is intended to test the feasibility of Inter-AMA Firming with the goal of ensuring that all participating entities will not have interruption of water during a shortage.

The Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA) and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) worked together to develop the concept of regional storage, as an effective management tool in order for all participating regions to proactively prepare for shortages. SAWUA and AMWUA sent a joint letter of support for the concept to the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, and the Arizona Water Banking Authority.

While Phoenix, Tucson, and Metro Water were first to execute a regional storage agreement, it is anticipated that other jurisdictions will adopt similar collaborative accords.

Regional storage agreements represent an important example of how water providers in Arizona are working together, even across regions, to improve water management practices.

SAWUA'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Discuss and analyze federal, state, regional and local water resource management, policy and planning.
- Consult, coordinate, and cooperate in the development of effective water resource policy and planning, including legislation.
- Ensure appropriate policies and programs are in place to protect the quantity and quality of water resources within and available to Southern Arizona.

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